

MichiganGenealogist

Genealogy news from the Department of History, Arts and Libraries

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Governor Granholm has again designated October as Family History Month (FHM). Family History Month provides genealogists with a great opportunity to build bridges with their local libraries. Have you checked to see if they have any events planned for FHM? If not, has your society approached your library about possibly providing a workshop or short seminar in October? Many libraries are reluctant to provide genealogical programming because they don't have an "expert" on staff. Maybe your society can provide the "expert" free of charge? Libraries love to bring in new people, and family history programs may offer a way to connect to a new segment of users that have not been regular library patrons. Give your local library a call and offer the services of your society to help celebrate Family History Month.

The Library of Michigan is celebrating FHM by offering a series of FREE half-day seminars focusing on the tremendous resources available at the Library of Michigan and Archives of Michigan. All of the sessions will take place in the Lake Erie Room on the first floor of the Library of Michigan. Classes will be held on Tuesday mornings (9 a.m. until noon) and repeated on Wednesday afternoons (1 until 4 p.m.). We hope that you will be able to attend one or all of the seminars. Topics will include: beginning your family history research, overviews of the Library and Archives, Michigan city directories, vital record research, discussions of the new Seeking Michigan Web site and the vital records digitization project, the Archives Civil War project and many more. Check the Library's Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory> for more details and to register.

The Michigan Genealogical Council will also be holding a daylong family history conference Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. at the Michigan Library and Historical Center. State Archivist Mark Harvey and several Library of Michigan staff members will be presenting. This conference has been designed to appeal to experienced researchers and individuals that have just started exploring their family history. A complete list of programs and presenters is available on the MGC's Web site at <http://www.mimgc.org>. Cost of the conference is \$25 with lunch and \$17 without. The deadline for registration is Oct. 10.

I encourage you to get out and do something special to promote genealogy during Family History Month. If you have questions or need ideas, do not hesitate to contact the staff here at the Library. October provides us with an opportunity to open the world of family history to people who haven't yet caught the bug.

Happy searching!

Randy Riley
Special Collections Manager
Library of Michigan

Celebrate Family History Month at the Library of Michigan

In celebration of Family History Month, the Library of Michigan will offer a series of free classes during the month of October. Sessions are designed to appeal to both the experienced and beginning genealogist. All sessions will be held in the Lake Erie Room on the first floor of the Library. All sessions are first-come, first-served. Space is limited, so please come early to ensure that you will have a seat or to register online at www.michigan.gov/familyhistory.

Week 1

Tuesday, Oct. 7

9 to 9:45 a.m.

10 to 10:45 a.m.

11 to 11:45 a.m.

Beginning Your Family History Research

Discovering Family History Resources at the Library of Michigan

Genealogical Resources at the Archives of Michigan

Wednesday, Oct. 8

1 to 1:45 p.m.

2 to 2:45 p.m.

3 to 3:45 p.m.

Beginning Your Family History Research

Discovering Family History Resources at the Library of Michigan

Genealogical Resources at the Archives of Michigan

Week 2

Tuesday, Oct. 14

9 to 9:45 a.m.

10 to 10:45 a.m.

11 to 11:45 a.m.

Michigan City Directory Resources at the Library of Michigan

Michigan Vital Records Research

Mapping a New Course at the Archives of Michigan

Wednesday, Oct. 15

1 to 1:45 p.m.

2 to 2:45 p.m.

3 to 3:45 p.m.

Michigan City Directory Resources at the Library of Michigan

Michigan Vital Records Research

Mapping a New Course at the Archives of Michigan

Week 3

Tuesday, Oct. 21

9 to 9:45 a.m.

10 to 10:45 a.m.

11 to 11:45 a.m.

Library of Michigan's Cemetery Database

Polish Resources at the Library of Michigan

Seeking Michigan: A New Electronic Resource

Wednesday, Oct. 22

1 to 1:45 p.m.

2 to 2:45 p.m.

3 to 3:45 p.m.

Library of Michigan's Cemetery Database

Polish Resources at the Library of Michigan

Seeking Michigan: A New Electronic Resource

Week 4

Tuesday, Oct. 28

9 to 9:45 a.m.

10 to 10:45 a.m.

11 to 11:45 a.m.

Family History Resources on the Internet

Death Records Digitization Project

"Thank God for Michigan": The Archives of Michigan's Civil War Project

Wednesday, Oct. 29

1 to 1:45 p.m.

Family History Resources on the Internet

2 to 2:45 p.m.

Death Records Digitization Project

3 to 3:45 p.m.

“Thank God for Michigan”: The Archives of Michigan’s Civil War Project

If you have questions about any of the programs contact the Special Collections staff at (517) 373-1300 or librarian@michigan.gov. Check the Library’s Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory> for more information about family history tools available at the Library of Michigan.

Library of Michigan Offers Assistance for Genealogists Who Are Disabled

by Scott Norris, adaptive technology coordinator

The Library of Michigan offers a variety of family history research options to assist genealogists who have disabilities.

For those who have low vision, we offer CCTVs (closed circuit television) that magnify items placed before the camera’s lens. A CCTV will magnify print, photos, a page printed from microfilm, handwritten notes or any object that will fit under the lens.

We offer both screen-enlargement programs, which magnify what is presented on the computer screen, and screen-reading programs that turn textual information presented on a computer screen into synthesized speech.

Finally, a reading machine that scans machine-produced print and turns it into synthesized speech is also available.

Staff members are always willing to assist any patron in using the variety of adaptive equipment available at the Library of Michigan.

Abrams Genealogy Seminar a Success

by Kris Rzepczynski, Michigan/genealogy coordinator

Held July 25-26 at the Library of Michigan and drawing more than 160 attendees, the 2008 Abrams Genealogy Seminar – “Piecing Together Our Past” – brought together family history researchers and librarians from communities all across Michigan. We were thrilled with the seminar’s turnout, which represented an increase from last year’s attendance.

The Library also partnered with the Ingham County Genealogical Society in bringing the seminar’s keynote speaker, Dr. George Schweitzer, here to Lansing. Among the high points of the seminar, Dr. Schweitzer appeared in period costume for his two programs “Tracing Ancestors Back Across the Atlantic” and “Civil War Genealogy.”



(above) It was a full house for the 2008 Abrams Genealogy Seminar at the Library of Michigan.

For his presentation on Civil War research, Dr. George Schweitzer began as a Confederate (far right), but after a costume change, finished up as a member of the Union army. (right)

One continuing popular feature of the Abrams Genealogy Seminar was the program track featuring Michigan libraries and archives with significant genealogical and historical collections. Librarians and archivists from the Archives of Michigan, Detroit Public Library, Library of Michigan, Loutit District Library in Grand Haven and Public Libraries of Saginaw each offered insight toward accessing and better utilizing their respective collections.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make this event so special.

A Call for Burial Lists

By Kendel Darragh, Reference Librarian

The Michigan Cemetery Sources Database (<http://www.hal.state.mi.us/cemeteries/>) is always in need of new information, and you can help! If you know of new burial lists online, please alert the database coordinator by e-mailing Kendel Darragh at librarian@michigan.gov. The Library of Michigan is anxious to add a link to your burial list to the database, so others can find and use it.

The staff of the Library greatly appreciates the hard work of the volunteers who produce these labor-intensive lists. Without them, many family historians would not be able to complete their research. We want to help researchers find these valuable burial lists, as well as highlight the work of those who produce them.

Idlewild's History as Creative Haven Honored with a Michigan Literary Landmark

By Karren Reish, Michigan Center for the Book coordinator

On Aug. 16, a Literary Landmark was dedicated in Idlewild, for novelist Charles Waddell Chesnutt, poet Langston Hughes, novelist Zora Neale Hurston and scholar-activist W.E.B. Du Bois. The event included a keynote address about the inspiration of Idlewild by best-selling author and Idlewilder Elizabeth Atkins, as well as performances of each author's work.

For these historic authors, Idlewild was a place to meet other African-American artists and writers and to escape Jim Crow restrictions in the 20th century. Known as the "Black Eden," Idlewild was the foremost African-American summer resort in the United States from 1912 to the 1960s. Musicians and entertainers flocked to the "Apollo of Michigan," where appearances in one of the community's nine clubs began the careers of many celebrities, such as Lena Horne, Bill Cosby, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Aretha Franklin, Sammy Davis Jr., B.B. King, Stevie Wonder and Count Basie.

Vacationers from places such as Chicago, Detroit, New York and St. Louis came to experience nature and enjoy the lakes and rustic surroundings. They also came to see the famous and soon-to-be-famous entertainers and intellectuals. Now local community groups, historical groups, the state of Michigan and federal partners are supporting an economic and historic revitalization of Idlewild to preserve its unique place in American and Michigan history and culture.



(at left) Coffiann Hawthorne, deputy legal counsel and policy advisor for the Office of Governor Jennifer Granholm (left), and Elizabeth Atkins, best-selling author and journalist with family ties to Idlewild.



(below) Idlewild Public Library Director Susan Dooley (left) and State Librarian Nancy Robertson.

The Library of Michigan, the Idlewild Public Library, Broadside Press and the Michigan Center for the Book worked together to support this initiative with the designation of a Literary Landmark that recognizes the African-American authors who owned land and/or vacationed here. Idlewild Public Library has agreed to maintain and support the Literary Landmark as part of its role as a local history repository for the community.

You can find more information on the event as well as an Idlewild brochure at <http://www.michigan.gov/mcflb>. Select the Activities section and then the Literary Landmarks section.

Library of Michigan Staff Across the State

Library of Michigan staff members will be presenting the following programs at various venues this fall:

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| Oct. 3 | Kris Rzepczynski presents "Genealogy Research at the Library of Michigan"
<i>Fox Run Retirement Community, Novi</i> |
| Oct. 4 | Kris Rzepczynski presents "Michigan Roots: Research in the Wolverine State" and "Coming to America: Research with Passenger Lists"
<i>Herrick District Library, Holland</i> |
| Oct. 7 and 8 | Leelyn Johnson presents "Beginning Your Family History Research"
<i>Library of Michigan</i> |
| Oct. 7 and 8 | Edwina Morgan presents "Discovering Family History Resources at the Library of Michigan"
<i>Library of Michigan</i> |
| Oct. 14 | Kris Rzepczynski presents "Getting Started: Researching Your Family's Heritage"
<i>Clinton-Macomb Public Library, Clinton Township</i> |
| Oct. 14 and 15 | Charles Hagler presents "Michigan City Directory Resources at the Library of Michigan"
<i>Library of Michigan</i> |
| Oct. 14 and 15 | Karen White presents "Michigan Vital Records Research"
<i>Library of Michigan</i> |
| Oct. 15 | Kris Rzepczynski presents "Genealogy Research at the Library of Michigan"
<i>Downriver Genealogical Society, Wyandotte</i> |
| Oct. 18 | Charles Hagler presents "Naturalization Records and Resources"
<i>Michigan Genealogical Council Seminar, Library of Michigan</i> |
| Oct. 18 | Edwina Morgan presents "Discovering Family History Resources at the Library of Michigan"
<i>Michigan Genealogical Council Seminar, Library of Michigan</i> |

- Oct. 18 Kris Rzepczynski presents **“Seeking Michigan Death Records? A New Digitization Project”**
Michigan Genealogical Council Seminar, Library of Michigan
- Oct. 21 Kris Rzepczynski presents **“The Circle of Life: Research with Michigan Vital Records”**
Shiawassee County Genealogical Society, Owosso
- Oct. 21 and 22 Kendel Darragh presents **“The Library of Michigan’s Michigan Cemetery Database”**
Library of Michigan
- Oct. 21 and 22 Kris Rzepczynski presents **“Polish Genealogy Research at the Library of Michigan”**
Library of Michigan
- Oct. 22 Kris Rzepczynski presents **“Shaping Your Community’s Yesterdays for Today and Tomorrow: Building Your Library’s Local History Collection”**
Michigan Library Association annual conference, Kalamazoo
- Oct. 27 Kris Rzepczynski presents **“Research with Federal Documents and the American State Papers”**
Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society, Decatur
- Oct. 28 and 29 Gloriane Peck presents **“Family History Resources on the Internet at the Library of Michigan”**
Library of Michigan
- Oct. 28 and 29 Kris Rzepczynski presents **“Seeking Michigan Death Records? A New Digitization Project”**
Library of Michigan
- Nov. 12 Kris Rzepczynski presents **“Utilizing Footnote.com at the Library of Michigan and from Home”**
Eaton County Genealogical Society, Charlotte
- Nov. 18 Randy Riley presents **“Preparing for a Research Trip to the Library of Michigan in Lansing”**
Farmington Genealogical Society, Farmington
- Nov. 23 Kris Rzepczynski speaks to the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County

What's New at the Library of Michigan?

by Charles Hagler, reference librarian

Do you want to know what new Michigan and genealogy materials have been added to the Library of Michigan's collection? Access to ANSWER, our online catalog, is available on the Internet at <http://answercat.org>. You can search the monthly new Michigan and genealogy books monthly by clicking on the "Check for New Books" button at the bottom of the ANSWER menu page.

Please note, many of our genealogical resources are part of the non-circulating collection and are only available for on-site use at the Library. ANSWER does not provide access to periodical articles, microforms, or CD-ROM and Internet databases, but does indicate the location and call number where the item can be found in the Library of Michigan.

Here are a few notable titles that have arrived since the last issue of *Michigan Genealogist*.

Certificates of Death. 478 reels. Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Dept. for Library and Archives, 1993-.

These are Kentucky death certificates from 1911 to 1957. Earlier years may include certificate number, name, gender, age, occupation, color or race, place and date of birth of the deceased, place and date of death, name and place of birth of the deceased's parents, informant's name and address, cause of death, name of physician signing certificate, name of undertaker, and place and date of burial. Later years may also include the name and age of the deceased's spouse. There is an index to these records on microfiche.

Microfilm F 450 .D433 1993

Kentucky Birth, Marriage and Death Records, 1852-1910. 32 reels. Frankfort, KY: Commonwealth of Kentucky, Dept. of Library and Archives, Div. of Archives and Records Management, 1980.

Microfilm F 450 .K465 1980

Consists of original records of the 120 counties of Kentucky.

Records and Documents from the Township of Alaiedon, Ingham County, Michigan. Part 2. 6 reels. Mason, MI: Ingham County Genealogical Society, 2008.

Microfilm F 574 .A4 R33 2008

This set completes the pioneering work of the Ingham County Genealogical Society, which has painstakingly photocopied records from most of the local governments in Ingham County. The records microfilmed include the townships of Alaiedon, Aurelius, Bunker Hill, Delhi, Ingham, Lansing, Leroy, Leslie, Locke, Meridian, Onondaga, Stockbridge, Vevay, Wheatfield and White Oak; the cities of Leslie, Mason and Williamston; and the villages of Dansville, Stockbridge and Webberville. The society has graciously donated a copy of each microfilm record to the Library of Michigan. The Library wishes to thank all the members Ingham County Genealogical Society for the time and efforts they put into this groundbreaking project and for their donations to the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection.

Virginia Slave Births Index, 1853-1865. Leslie Anderson Morales, editor. 5 volumes. Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, 2007

Genealogy E445.V8 V57 2007

Transcribed and extracted from the "Birth index of slaves, 1853-1865," a project undertaken by the Works Project Administration (WPA), currently available on microfilm at the Local History/ Special Collections, Alexandria Library, Alexandria, VA.

Church Histories, Directories Offer Wide Range of Information Useful to Genealogists

By Gloriane Peck, special collections librarian

Less often sought than the newspaper indexes that precede it in the stacks, and not as well known or heavily used as the county histories a few aisles away, is the Library of Michigan's collection of church histories and directories. Rich with history, interesting tidbits and genealogical information, these holdings offer family historians additional avenues for research.

Shelved from BX 4600 to BX 9999 in the Library's Michigan Collection on 2 North, the church histories and directories do vary in the amount of information they contain. Many are simply directories of congregation members. In most cases, these include photos of families that belong to the church, along with a list of members and their contact information, including address and phone number. Some directories include photos of the church staff members, choirs and other groups. For the most part, these sources cover congregations during the past 20 years.

Reaching back farther, however, are a number of directories that include historical information. Often this is done in honor of a significant anniversary, and many churches even publish more in-depth stand-alone histories to commemorate the congregation's first 100 years. Some examples of these histories follow.

The publication *History of Methodist Church of Coldwater, Including Founders of Methodism and Membership Roll* by William H. and Lena A. Shipway covers the first 125 years of the church, from its founding in 1832 to 1957. This book describes the church's first members—how they came to Coldwater, where they bought land, and details about their occupations and relations. The authors list early places of worship for the congregation and describe the process of erecting the church's first building. In addition to providing data such as weekly attendance, membership statistics and pastor salaries, the book includes information about the church's women's groups, missionary societies, youth groups, choirs and boards.

Boyne City United Methodist Church, 1874-1974 by church historians Eula Martin and Dorothy Leslie features a timeline with highlights from the first 100 years of the church. In addition to a list of ministers, the authors included biographies of the pastors and accounts of major activities at the church during each preacher's tenure. Photos document the ministers, choirs, special events and facilities, including the parsonage and various church buildings. Membership rolls from 1910 and 1974 record congregation members, while another list shows who pledged donations for construction of a new building, and how much.

St. Mary Church of the Immaculate Conception, Alpena, Michigan, 1883 Centennial 1983, published by the church in 1983, blends information about the modern-day church, such as copies of letters commemorating its 100th anniversary and photos of the then-current choirs, committees, staff members, current members and priests, with a history of Poland (honoring the church's Polish roots), a history of Alpena and a history of the parish. Peppering the pages of this history are bits of information about parishioners, such as, "On June 16, 1899, the first native son of the parish was ordained to the priesthood. Fr. Julius Utecht served the Diocese of Pittsburgh faithfully for 42 years." (Pages are not numbered.) Information about the church's affiliated school provides additional insight into the lives of ancestors.

While St. Mary was Alpena's Polish-Catholic church, St. Anne Church served the city's French-Catholic population. *St. Anne Church: 100 Years and Counting*, published by the church in 1983, details the beginnings of the church, when it was part of the same parish as St. Mary. Alpena's first Catholic church was St. Bernard's, but in 1883 it split into three churches, the third one

retaining the name St. Bernard's and serving English-speakers, most of whom were of Irish heritage. (16) Descriptions of life in France, then life in Quebec, then life in America set the scene for this history. Many references are made to annual reports and parish records, including:

“The first entry on the first page of the new Baptismal Register records that on December 16, 1883, Father Winter baptized twins: William and Alfred Prieur, sons of Dominic Prieur and Catherine Minville, born December 14, 1883. Sponsors were William Minville and Josephina LaLonde for William, Ephrem LaLonde and Julia Anna Minville for Alfred.” (19)

The book features information about each of the priests who served the church, starting before their arrival at St. Anne's and tracing where they went after they completed their service there. It even details a quarrel between a St. Anne's priest and the bishop of Grand Rapids. Parishioners shared memories of priests, the church and their daily lives for this publication, and so bits and pieces of their life happenings made it into the book, including vital information, the purchase of a grocery store and socials held in private homes to raise money for the church. (48)

For more information about church history holdings at the Library of Michigan, please search ANSWER, the Library's catalog, online at <http://www.answercat.org>. A keyword search for the town where ancestors lived and the religion they practiced (such as alpena and catholic) would return any relevant results.

Federal Documents and Genealogy: Immigration Records from the United States Government

by Leelyn Johnson, federal documents and reference coordinator

Until the U.S. Congress enacted legislation on March 2, 1819 to regulate the transport of passengers in ships arriving from foreign ports, there was no official register of the passengers or crews of vessels. Beginning Jan. 1, 1820 this act required captains to submit a list of all passengers to a U.S. official. The legislation established collection districts, with each having a headquarter port with a customhouse and a collector of customs. The collector was required to submit quarterly passenger list reports to the Secretary of State, who then submitted reports to Congress.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) holds immigration records or ship passenger arrival records for ports from 1800 to 1959. The records available at NARA before Jan. 1, 1820, are for two ports:

Arrivals at New Orleans, Louisiana, 1813-1819 are reproduced in the NARA publication *Work Projects Administration Transcript of Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, Louisiana, 1813-1849* (2 rolls).

Arrivals at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1800-1819 are reproduced in the NARA publication *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1800-1882* (108 rolls), which is indexed by *Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1800-1906* (151 rolls).

Passenger arrival records and vessel crew lists from the water and land border ports are reproduced in NARA microfilm publications. A complete list of the ports with the years covered can be found in *Part 5: Available 1800-1959 Immigration Records* in the Immigration

Records section of NARA's Web site at <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/immigration/passenger-arrival.html>.

The Library of Michigan has purchased some of the passenger lists on microfilm, and many are available in other libraries. Indexes are available, along with links from the names to the actual images of the passenger lists, on Ancestry. Library Edition

Sources available in the Library of Michigan

Colletta, John Philip. **They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record.** Rev., updated, 3rd ed. Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2002.
Genealogy CS 49 .C63 2002

United States. National Archives and Records Administration. **Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives.** Rev. Washington, D.C.: Published for the National Archives and Records Administration by the National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1985.
Housed at Genealogy Desk **Z 5313.U5 U54 1985**

Tepper, Michael. **American Passenger Arrival Records: A Guide to the Records of Immigrants Arriving at American Ports by Sail and Steam.** Updated and enlarged. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1993.
Genealogy CS 49 .T46 1993

NARA microfilm available at the Library of Michigan

Copies of Lists of Passengers Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts and at Ports on the Great Lakes, 1820-1873. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1964.
Genealogy Mfm CS 68 .C67 1964

Index (Soundex) to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Philadelphia, PA, January 1, 1883-June 28, 1948. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 198?.
Genealogy Mfm CS 68 .I545 1980

Manifest Records of Aliens Arriving from Foreign Contiguous Territories: Arrivals at Detroit, Michigan from January 1, 1906 to December 24, 1954. Washington, D.C.: Immigration and Naturalization Service, [19—?]
Genealogy Mfm CS 68 .M36 1900z

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Baltimore, 1820-1891. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1959.
Genealogy Mfm F189.B153 P3 1959

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Bedford, Mass., 1902-1942. Washington: National Archives, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1944?.
Genealogy Mfm F 74.N4 P373 1944

Quarterly Abstracts of Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New Orleans, 1820-75. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1959.
Genealogy Mfm F377.N553 P382 1959

Records of the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service Passengers Inbound: Alphabetical Index Cards at the Port of Gulfport and Pascagoula, Mississippi: Dated Prior to December 1, 1954 ... Washington, D.C.: Immigration and Naturalization Service, [198-?]
Genealogy Mfm CS68.I52 G85 1904

Genealogical Treasure Trove in the Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room

By Carol Fink, Rare Book Curator

The Michigan Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (MISSAR) membership applications span the years from the society's founding in 1890, just one year after the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) formed, to the present. The wealth of genealogical information in these manuscript applications could provide the family history researcher with new information or confirm information found in other sources.

These applications range in size from two to 30 or more pages of documentation that authenticate an applicant's familial connection to a Revolutionary War patriot. They may be the original application or an amended one, as in the case of Elliott T. Slocum, a capitalist in Detroit who submitted his application on Jan. 25, 1894. An excerpt from Slocum's application reads:

Giles Slocum was born in Warwick Township Kent County Rhode Island, January 5th 1759 ... He was in General Sullivan's expedition against the Indians of the Genessee Valley. He was also one of the brave bands of two hundred who marched out of Fort Forty, on the site of the present city of Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, to meet the notorious Col. Butler and his band of Tories and Indians – eight hundred strong – in that cruel and most widely known Massacre of the Wyoming Valley, July 3, 1778.

Interestingly, some family histories include details about individuals other than the applicant or his patriot ancestor. Slocum's application goes on to reveal his five-year-old sister Frances was abducted by "hostile Delawares" and not seen again for 60 years.

The Library of Michigan has created online indexes to the applications so that you may do some preliminary searching before coming to the Library. The indexes can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory> under the genealogy tab.

The Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room hours are: Monday and Thursday 1 to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday by appointment. For more information, call (517) 373-4301 or (517) 373-1300.

"Most of Them Were the Very Opposite: Ignorant, Depraved and Licentious:" The Historical Collections of Lyman Copeland Draper

By Edwina Morgan, reference librarian

Lyman Draper made it his life's mission to collect and record the histories of early Trans-Allegheny pioneers and military heroes. The hero worship that led him to his work earned him the title of "Plutarch of Western History" before he reached the middle of his career and endeared him to following generations of historical and genealogical researchers.

Lyman Draper was born in Lockport, N.Y., but while he was still a young man his family moved to Vistula, Mich., a city that was to become Toledo, Ohio. Draper interacted with his family in Toledo for the duration of his life and traveled throughout the Old Northwest Territory during the course of his career as a manuscript collector and oral historian.

Prior to his attending college in 1834, he proclaimed himself to be a Baptist and a Democrat with a “holy mission” to preserve the documents and stories of the early pioneers. Early in his work, many individuals of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 were still living and thus he was able to get firsthand accounts of wartime activities. Later he would seek out the children and grandchildren for interviews that, at times, took weeks to conduct and transcribe.

The timeframe of his document collection spans from 1755 to 1815. He concentrated heavily on such individuals as George Rogers Clark and Daniel Boone, as he was hoping to publish books on such individuals. However, along with these great heroes he also gathered materials on common soldiers and citizens. Draper also made the effort to interview the grandson of Mackinac-born Charles Michel de Langlade, as well as the British Detroit-based American traitor Simon Girty.

Draper’s mission was spurred on by his deep admiration for the heroes of western expansion, often devoid of personal criticism as to their real-life character. One potential oral history source, an A. H. Dunlevy, told him frankly, “I knew too many of these pioneers to have a very high opinion of them as a class of men ... true a few had been men of uncompromising virtue, integrity, and piety but most of them were the very opposite, ignorant, depraved and licentious.” Not to be dissuaded, Draper would turn away from his Baptist faith to Spiritualism after the Civil War in order to communicate directly with the heroes of early America.

The mass of the original Draper Collection is now housed at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, where Draper earned his living for a while as the corresponding secretary. Facsimiles of this collection have been made available to libraries throughout the United States, including the Library of Michigan. The available Draper material is heavy with information on military records, the Revolution, Indian conflicts, the War of 1812, exploration and migration. These documents are a valuable resource to Michigan genealogists, as common individuals were documented along with the more famous people and battles. Letters, legal documents, transcripts of interviews, family and personal records, land deeds, military discharges and business records are contained on 123 reels of microfilm and 84 microfiches (Genealogy Microfilm E 173 .D73 1980, Genealogy Fiche E 173 .D73 1980).

The collections are lettered from (A) Bedinger Papers to (ZZ) Virginia Papers. Of extra special note to Michiganians may be the Frontier War Papers (U), Pittsburgh and Northwest Virginia Papers (NN) and Brant Papers (F); however, it should be noted that common people are listed throughout the collection and, given the emphasis on migration, people may be listed in unexpected locations.

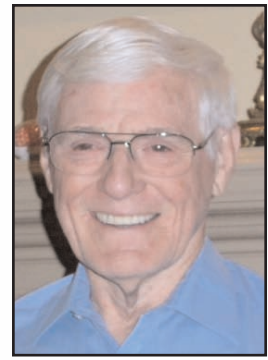
These collections have been divided into volumes, and each page within the volume has been numbered. A citation to a specific page in the collection will read: volume number, collection letter/s and then page number, such as 3ZZ127. In such a citation the 3 indicates Volume 3 in the Virginia papers (ZZ) on page 127.

The most recent finding aid to be published pertains to the collection Pittsburgh and Northwest Virginia Papers (NN) by Karen Mauer Green (Genealogy Z 6616 .D72 G74 2003x). Beyond the Revolution, individuals involved with the Whiskey Rebellion may be included in this index. Other guides may be found by searching our online catalog, Answer, at <http://www.answercat.org>.

A Conversation with Award-Winning Genealogist Bill Gorski

By Judith K. Moore, CFRE, executive director of the Library of Michigan Foundation

To say that J. William “Bill” Gorski is passionate about Polish genealogy in Michigan is an understatement. His collection of Polish materials, gathered over a period of more than 20 years, is parallel to none. This summer, the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan honored Bill with the first Reymont Award for his significant contributions to *The Polish Eaglet*, which Bill helped develop from a 12-page newsletter into a 36-page journal. In 2002, Bill donated his collection to the Library of Michigan. He is also a member of the Library of Michigan Foundation Legacy Society. I caught up with him recently:



William “Bill” Gorski

What got you interested in family research?

After I left my hometown of Grand Rapids in my 20s and moved to Detroit, my family started mailing all kinds of family photos, newspaper articles and family notices to me, and I began collecting it all. Later, when I was working at General Motors, I met a co-worker who was a genealogist. “I should do that,” I thought. And that’s how it started. It was 1977. In 1978, I joined the newly formed Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. In 1981, I became editor of their newsletter, which later became *The Eaglet*.

Where did you start your research?

Being of Polish background, I started in Parisville, in Huron County (Michigan), the oldest Polish settlement in the United States. I did a lot of research there. My real interest was the life of the immigrants in the area, the average guy in the street, the hard-working people, not the “rich and famous.”

Later I began traveling around the state, collecting and researching Polish materials. And then I started organizing and cataloging what I was finding. Carole Callard, then at the Library of Michigan, helped me a great deal with that. During my travels I took many, many photos of Polish neighborhoods: churches, buildings, streets, monuments. It’s so interesting to visit those neighborhoods now and see the comparison with the photos. Most of the buildings are gone, of course, and the streets look so different.

One of the traditions in Polish culture is to include the deceased’s portrait on the tombstone, so I took lots of photos of tombstones. From three large cemeteries, Sacred Heart, Holly Cross and St. Hedwig, I ended up with more than a thousand photos.

People also started sending me their photos and family histories to publish in *The Eaglet*. Eventually, my collection became so big that I started thinking about giving it to someone.

Why did you decide on the Library of Michigan?

I considered several libraries, including the Burton Collection (at Detroit Public Library) and St. Mary’s College and Seminary, in Orchard Lake, since the school specialized in Polish studies. Ultimately, I decided on the Library of Michigan because of its central location. Mine is a statewide collection, not a Detroit collection, and the Library of Michigan provided the best fit for it.

The collection was divided between the Archives and the Library of Michigan. The Archives received 2,500 photos, 3,000 slides and other miscellaneous materials. Everything else went to the Library’s Genealogy Collection. And because of their uniqueness, a couple of items went to the Library’s Rare Book Collection, so they could be well preserved there.



Tell me about the research on your own family history. How much material do you have?

I have eight volumes, each four inches thick. There are seven denominations in my background: Polish, Irish, French, German, Scotch, Lithuanian and English. You can imagine the amount of work involved!

This summer you received a well-deserved award from the Polish Genealogy Society for your accomplishments with *The Eaglet*. Do you belong to other genealogy societies?

Yes. I'm a member of the St. Clair, Huron, Polish Genealogy of America (Illinois) societies, and I'm a delegate at the Michigan Genealogical Council.

So, what's next?

Well, as far as my own family research, I'm still dealing with the 1800s in Poland and the 1600s Scotland... And *The Eaglet* keeps me very busy. We've just issued the 30th anniversary edition.

You've donated your Polish collection to the Library of Michigan. You've made provisions for the Library on your estate plans. You continue to advocate for financial support from Michigan's genealogical societies to the Library. Why do you feel so strongly about supporting the Library of Michigan?

First of all, libraries are important altogether. When the economy is down, their funding is cut. Funding to libraries should be the last thing to cut.

The Library of Michigan is an excellent library. It is financially secure. It is well managed, and has a nice building and knowledgeable staff. And it is centrally located, providing easy access from all directions in the state. To me, these are key factors for my support. I believe that everyone who uses the Library should support it, especially the genealogical societies in our state because of the great collection and the many workshops and seminars it offers to their members. We can't expect the Library to provide the excellent resources we are looking for without all our support ... Do you know what I call the Library of Michigan? The "Northern Fort Wayne." It is not as big as Fort Wayne, but it surely could be!

The Library of Michigan Foundation

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Research:

Due to the length of time needed to conduct genealogical research, the staff of the Library of Michigan and Archives of Michigan is unable provide extensive research services. Check the Library of Michigan and Archives of Michigan's Web pages at <http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan> and <http://www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi> for more information on policies and procedures regarding genealogical research.

Ask A Librarian:

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